

9 Chanukah Songs to lighten up your Chanukah **From Hazzan Dulkan**

Why 9? Because even the Shammash on your Chanukiyah needs some love. Also, I couldn't decide which one to NOT share with you.

[Leslie Odom Jr. & Nicolette Robinson - Maoz Tzur](#)

This Hamilton actor (that's the original Aaron Burr to you) and his super talented wife sing a perfect rendition of the Hebrew Chanukah hymn. Don't worry about the Christmas wreath in the visuals, this is a legit Chanukah song and it is gorgeous.

[Dreidel - Erran Barron Cohen](#)

Yes, this is Borat's brother. Erran Barron Cohen is a brilliant music producer and musical supervisor for all of Sasha's movies. But did you know that he produced a whole Chanukah album? Barron Cohen reimagines "I have a little dreidel" here with Eastern European accordion, hip hop beats, a horn sections, break dancing Hasids, and of course, lots of spinning dreidels.

[Jack Black - O Chanukah](#)

The beloved star of *School of Rock* and one-half of the ridiculous rock duo Tenacious D offers an a cappella rendition of the old chestnut "O Chanukah O Chanukah" that manages to be both irreverent, hilarious, and touching.

[Happy Joyous Chanukah – The Klezmatics](#)

The Klezmatics released a whole album of Woody Guthrie's previously unreleased Chanukah lyrics set to their music and it is a fabulous addition to the Chanukah canon. You can listen to the studio version of the title track, or this [casual, live version](#), with a barefoot Loren Sklamberg leading his band with vocals and accordion in someone's living room.

[Chanukah Dance - Nefesh Mountain](#)

Another one by Woody Guthrie - a dreamy, ebullient tune performed by the talented Nefesh Mountain Bluegrass band.

[Candlelight \(the Maccabeats\)](#)

This is the video that started it all for the Maccabeats, and it holds up well, and is comforting in these strange times. The best part is that you don't even need to remember the original song on which it is based to truly appreciate this parody.

[Pella - 8 Nights of Chanukah Mashup](#)

All your favorite Chanukah songs, sung by a super talented co-ed group called Pella, with beautiful visuals from the states and Israel linking the current to the ancient. Amid the great singing and fun music (Adam Sandler's Chanukah song, anyone?), watch for a cute visual gag that lobs a Chanukah gift from singer to singer – where does it end up?

[Ocho Kandelikas - Flory Jagoda and Idina Menzel](#)

Watch as this classic song in Ladino (Judeo-Spanish) is sung by the composer herself, Flory Jagoda, a refugee from Bosnia who is credited with preserving the Ladino Jewish culture of her native land. Jagoda explains the song a bit as she plays it and it is *everything*. Then, listen as Broadway (and *Frozen*) sensation Idina Menzel turns it into a [Latin dance number!](#)

[Matisyahu - Miracle](#)

A contemporary song for Chanukah by Matisyahu. I recommend you listen to his acoustic version first, before you watch the (VERY wacky) [official music video](#) of the original, to really focus on the words and sentiment which are lovely.